

Docket No. AUS920030544US1

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COUNTING INSTRUCTION EXECUTION  
AND DATA ACCESSES TO IDENTIFY HOT SPOTS**

A method, apparatus, and computer instructions in a data processing system for processing instructions are provided. Instructions are received at a processor in the data processing system. If a selected indicator is associated with the instruction, counting of each event associated with the execution of the instruction is enabled. In some embodiments of the present invention, the counts associated with the performance indicators may be checked to determine if the counts are above a threshold. If a count is above a threshold, the associated instruction/data address may be identified as a "hot spot" and optimization of the execution of the code may be performed based on the identification of the hot spot.